

NEW GAME AT CARDS ;

OR, A

PACK OF CARDS

Changed into a Compleat and Perpetual

ALMANACK.

IN A

DIALOGUE between a NOBLEMAN and his
SERVANT.

- I. Shewing the Use of his Cards by the
Quarters, Months, Weeks, and Days of
the Year.
- II. He converts his Cards into a compleat
and Monital Prayer Book, with curious
Remarks upon the Knave, &c.

*The whole adapted to the Entertainment of the
Humorous as well as to the Satisfaction of the
Grave, Learned, and Ingenious. The like never
before published.*

Printed in this present Year.

A new Game at Cards, &c.

A Certain Nobleman lived in the city of London, who kept a number of servants, and in one of them he placed a great deal of confidence. One of his fellow-servants being jealous of him, went to his master and made a complaint against him, in order to get him turned from his master's service. All he could impeach him of was, that he was a great gamester at cards; because gamesters his master mortally hated and detested. However he took an opportunity of calling him to an account, in order to chastise him for his crime. Jack, says the Nobleman, what's this I hear of you? I can't tell, my lord, says Jack, what it is. Why, says the nobleman, you're really turned a great gamester at cards. My lord, says Jack, it's a false report, who informed you so; No matter for that, but are you really a gamester or not? My lord, says Jack, I am so far from being so, that I never played at cards in my time, nor do I know what cards mean. Very well, says the nobleman, I am

I am glad to hear that, on your own account. But however we shall call the informer, and then know whether this be true or not. The informer being called upon, came in unto his lord. Did not you inform me, says his lordship, that Jack was a great gamester at cards? I did indeed, my lord, says the informer. Why, Jack utterly denies it, says the nobleman. I care not for that, my lord, says the informer, You villain, says the nobleman, how durst you tell me a lie? I did not, my lord, says the informer, I'll prove it to his face, that he is, and one of the greatest gamesters in London: And for a proof of what I have said, please to search his pockets, and there you'll find a pack of cards, for he is never without them. Jack being searched, and the cards taken out of his pockets, the nobleman flew into a passion, and began to rage and stamp about the room. You impudent rogue, says he, how durst you stand in a lye before me, knowing you are guilty, had you confessed the crime I would have forgiven it, but now I will punish you to the utmost severity, not only for being a gamester, but a lyar also. My lord, says Jack.

Jack, you may use you pleasure, I hope you'll not condemn me for a fault that I am not guilty of. You villian, says the nobleman, what further proof need there be than the cards which were found in your pockets? how can you speak for yourself? My lord, says Jack, if you call these cards, I do not. You rascal, says the nobleman, what do you call them? My lord, says Jack, these I keep as an almanack. An almanack you villian, did ever any one make an almanack of a pack of cards? what sence can there be in that? My lord, says Jack, I am no scholar, for that reason I use them as an almanack to rule and govern the year by. If so Jack, let me hear how you apply your almanack? My lord, says Jack, you know in the first place, there are four suits in the cards, that represent to me the four seasons in the year, and the planets that rule them; then when I look over the twelve court cards, these present to me the twelve months in the year, and the twelve signs of the zodiack from which the sun steers his diurnal course; examine the cards, and you'll find thirteen in a suit, these are just as many as there are weeks

weeks in a quarter, as many in a pack as weeks in a year, and as many spots as days in a year, these multiplied by 24 and divided by 60 bring the exact number of hours and minutes in a year. Very well, Jack, says the nobleman, I can't say but you have managed your cards perfectly, but prithee Jack, what further use do you make of them? Why, my lord, says Jack, I sometimes convert them into a prayer book. A prayer book, you villian! says the nobleman, I am sure if you make an almanack of them you never can make a prayer book too. What sense can be made of that? My lord, says Jack, you know I told you I could neither read nor write, for that reason I make these cards answer my purpose as well as the best prayer book in England. I like your beginning very well, Jack, says the nobleman, and am anxious to hear the whole repeated. Well my lord, says Jack, you must consider these four suits of cards represent the four principal religions that predominate in the world, christianity, judaism, mahometism and paganism; the twelve court cards represent the twelve apostles; the twelve patriarcks,

triarcks, from whom the twelve tribes of
 Israel proceed ; when I look upon the king,
 it puts me in remembrance of the allegiance
 I bear to his Majesty ; when on the queen,
 in remembrance of her Majesty ; when on
 the ten, in remembrance of the ten cities
 that were destroyed with fire and brimstone
 from Heaven, and also the ten command-
 ments which I am bound to believe ; when
 on the nine, in remembrance of the nine
 muses and the nine noble orders among
 men ; when on the eight, in remembrance
 of the eight altitudes, the persons saved in
 the ark, the eight persons mentioned in
 scripture who were released from death to
 life ; when on the seven, in remembrance
 of the seven ministring spirits that stand
 before the throne, also the seven seals with
 which the book of life is sealed ; when on
 the six, in remembrance of the six petitions
 of the Lord's Prayer ; when on the five, in
 remembrance of the five senses that are
 given by God to man, viz. hearing, seeing,
 feeling, tasting and smelling ; when on four,
 in remembrance of the four evangelists, and
 the last things, which are death, judgment,
 heaven

heaven and hell; when on the three, in remembrance of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, as also the three days Jonas was in the whale's belly, the three hours that Our Saviour hung upon the cross, and the three days that he was interred in the bowels of the earth; when on the two, in remembrance of the two testaments the old and new, containing the law and gospel, the two contrary principles struggling in man, virtue and vice; then, my lord, when I look upon the ace, being but one in number, it puts me in remembrance that I have only one God to adore, one truth to practise, one only master to serve and obey. Very well, Jack, says the nobleman, you have managed your cards well, but Jack, I perceive there is a card in the pack which you have not yet explained. Which is it, my lord? says Jack. Why Jack, when you was shuffling them you went from the queen to the ten, and laid aside the knave, Does he remember you of any thing? That's right, my lord, says Jack, I had nearly forgot, when I look upon the knave, it puts me in remembrance of our lordship. What, you villian! do you call

call me a knave to my face? says the nobleman. No, my lord, says Jack, you misapprehend me, I mean the informer's lordship. If so, Jack, that's pretty well returned, says the nobleman, I freely forgive you. Upon which he was so highly pleased with the ready turns of wit and humour which he found in Jack, that he preferred him to the highest office in his service, doubled his wages, and discharged the informer who soon after died, and Jack afterwards wrote the following epitaph upon his tomb-stone.

*STAY, Reader, and look here, for it is said,
Under this stone a sly informer's laid,
Who studied nothing all his life throughout,
But mischief till his own destruction wrought,
His neighbour's ill was what he chiefly sought }
If heaven be pleas'd, when mortals cease to sin,
Or hell be pleas'd for villains to enter in;
Or earth be pleas'd, when it's entomb'd a knave,
Sure all is well, the rogue's laid in his grave.*

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